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OCI No. 2760/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
10 September 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Significant Developments in the Latin  
American Countries on the Counterin-  
surgency Critical List

A. Countries on the Critical List

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2. Colombia

For more than a year, sabotage of communica-  
tions lines has been increasing in the provinces of  
Valle, Cauca, and Narino. At present, telephone wires  
are being removed almost daily, frequently resulting  
in interruptions of official as well as civil communi-  
cations. The wire is removed by rural bandits, who  
have found a ready market for stolen cable in the  
cities. (Map)

Self-defense committees of local residents  
are forming in Caldas Province to provide "vigilance  
service" against terrorist raids. The committees  
provide military posts with information on the where-  
abouts and activities of bandit groups. (Map)

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3. Ecuador

No significant developments 3-9 September.

4. Guatemala

No significant developments 3-9 September.

5. Venezuela

Showing more audacity than usual, the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN) has conducted a series of daylight attacks on units of the security forces. Targets included the headquarters of the Air Force in downtown Caracas, the police headquarters in Maracaibo, and the home of the captain of President Betancourt's personal bodyguard. In addition, considerable damage has been sustained by US-owned petroleum installations as a result of FALN sabotage.

B. Other Countries1. Honduras-Nicaragua

The Honduran armed forces have begun anti-insurgent operations involving the use of about 300 field-equipped troops against the pro-Castro, anti-Somoza guerrillas operating in the vicinity of the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. The mission of the troops is to locate and destroy the guerrilla camps which reportedly are along the Patuca River in Honduras.

The Nicaraguan National Guard has been conducting operations against the insurgents since late July 1963, when a small group crossed the border into Nicaragua to conduct anti-Somoza operations. (Map)

2. Panama

The Panamanian Communist Party, the PDP, may finally be implementing an active revolutionary effort. After years of weakness and ineffectiveness, the PDP has recently shown increasing strength and sophistication of effort, particularly among students and also among peasants and banana workers in Chiriqui Province.

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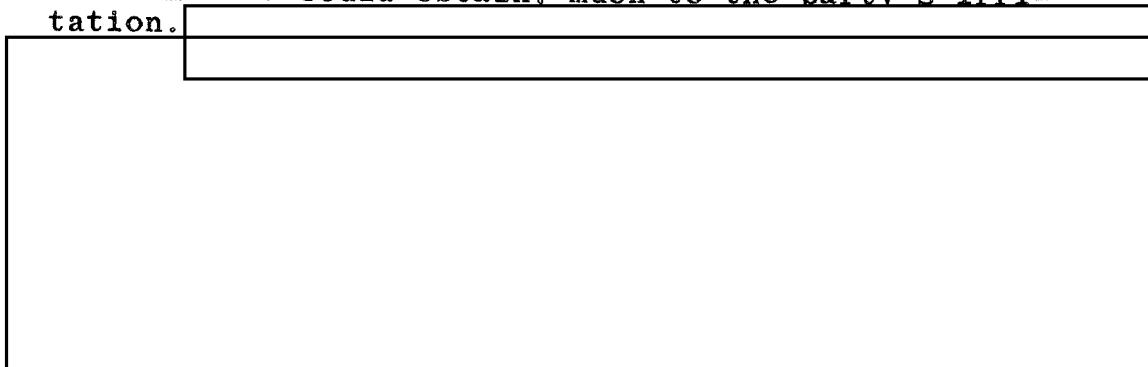
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The growing PDP effort results at least partially from the challenge of the more activist, Communist-led National Action Vanguard (VAN). VAN's revolutionary fervor has elicited more help from Cuba than the PDP could obtain, much to the party's irritation.

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### 3. Peru

The Leftist Revolutionary Movement (MIR), some of whose members were trained in Cuba, reportedly is planning "economic war" against the petroleum industry and the railroads. The MIR had previously decided not to begin operations against the new Belaunde government until it had been in office for six months--presumably allowing a period of grace until January 1964.

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